
the Friend
DECEMBER • 2009

Friends by Mail

A Trip to the Sacred Grove



My family took a trip to Palmyra, New York. We took a tour of Joseph Smith's home, and we visited the Sacred Grove. While we were in the Sacred Grove, I felt the Spirit and I knew that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus. I know that Heavenly Father and Jesus live.

Brianna J., age 10, Iowa



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER EICHELBERGER

Thanks for the Web Site and Magazine



I really enjoy the *Friend* magazine's Web site. It is the perfect thing to do on Sundays because it helps me keep the Sabbath day holy. I love the puzzles online and am so glad there are so many things I can print out. I also love the interactive coloring pages. I love the *Friend* magazine too. I especially liked the "Help to Heal" and "Maria's Medal" stories in the February 2009 issue. I also like Friends by Mail. Thanks for everything!

Eliza L., age 9, New York

Coming in 2010: A New *Liahona* Magazine

The Church publishes a magazine for children, youth, and adults who speak languages other than English. It is called the *Liahona* magazine. The *Liahona* is printed in 50 languages! The magazine has been redesigned to better reach Church members around the world. Some pages of the *Friend* are in the *Liahona*. To subscribe to the *Liahona* magazine, visit ldscatalog.com.

Fun with *Friend* Games



What I especially like about the *Friend* are the games, such as the "Scripture Picture Game" in the November 2008 issue. My family had a fun time playing it for family home evening! I like the games because they offer a fun learning experience.

Taylor D., age 11, California

Would you like to write us a letter? Turn to page 49 to find out how.

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 12
DECEMBER 2009

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the Friend

See the Guide to the Friend on page 49 for family home evening ideas.



A children's magazine published by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Cover by Jim Madsen



Look for the *Friend* mouse throughout this issue to find out which features are online at friend.lds.org. See if you can count how many times the mouse appears.



Hidden CTR Ring

Clue: There are some really creative friends who search for the CTR ring.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY
TO THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

The Reason for the Wonder

The Christmas season is one of the most wonderful times of the year. However, it is not the gifts, the trees, the decorations, or the food that make this a season full of wonder.

It is when we remember the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, that the Christmas season becomes truly special.

As we strive to remember our Savior, our desire to live like Him will grow. It is no coincidence that Christmas is the time of the year when people are the most loving, the most giving, the most kind, and the most grateful.

As we try to follow Christ's example this season and do our best to live as He did, let us find ways to lift up those around us. Let us celebrate our Savior's birth by being followers of Christ in word and deed.

We testify that as we do so, the desire to follow Him that grows within us at Christmas will continue to develop throughout the upcoming year. ●

President Thomas S. Monson

President Henry B. Eyring

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf



THE NATIVITY, BY NATHAN PINNOCK




Mandy, you smell really good.
Thanks! Mom let me wear her new perfume by Frank Incense.

BY TALLENE SMITH
(Based on a true story)

Grandma's Gift

Look up the following scriptures: John 15:12; Mosiah 2:17; D&C 4:2. Circle the one you think fits the story best.

"Is *Franklin cents* a type of money?" Rose asked as Grandma handed her a stack of napkins.

Grandma chuckled. "No, frankincense is a very expensive perfume."

Rose picked up the basket of forks and followed Grandma to the family room. "Then why did the Wise Men give it to baby Jesus?" Rose asked.

"Because it was a very precious gift," Grandma said.

Rose helped Grandma set the table for the Christmas party. "So, Grandma, what gift would you give Jesus?"

"I don't know," Grandma said with a smile. "But I do know we have a house full of hungry people." Grandma hurried off to finish getting dinner ready.

At Grandma's Christmas party every year, Rose had fun playing with her cousins and listening to everyone tell stories. Rose ate dinner next to her cousin Beth and her new baby. Beth told Rose how Grandma used to help with the new babies in the hospital's nursery.

Later, Rose heard Aunt Julie ask her cousin Tim what quilt Grandma had given him when he got married. They told Rose how Grandma spent hours making beautiful quilts for her grandchildren's wedding presents.

While Rose watched her dad play dominoes, she listened to stories about when Grandma was Relief Society president in her ward. Grandma often took dinner to people who were sick.

Rose sat next to Grandpa while she ate her apple pie. He told her that he and Grandma had gone to the temple every Tuesday for 25 years. They had done temple work for so many people that Grandpa had lost count of them all.

Rose jumped up from the table and ran to find Grandma. Rose patted her hand and said, "I know what gift you give to Jesus."

"Oh? What is that?" Grandma asked.

Rose threw her arms around Grandma's neck. "You give the gift of love!" ●

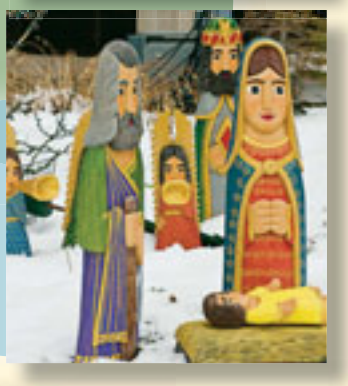


"Our Heavenly Father gave His Son. The Son of God gave His life. We are asked by Them to give our lives . . . in Their divine service."[1]

President Thomas S. Monson

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JULIE F. YOUNG





A Temple Square CHRISTMAS

Many people love to visit Temple Square at Christmastime. Liza, age 11, and Hiram, age 10, are cousins from Kaysville, Utah, who came to see the beautiful lights and sights on Temple Square.

It can be hard to decide what to look at first. Everywhere trees are covered with tiny twinkling lights in pink, yellow, blue, and green. Above it all, the Salt Lake Temple glows in brilliant white, with the gold figure of Moroni shining at the top.

Liza and Hiram enjoyed looking at some child-sized nativity sets made especially for children who came to the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Artists from several countries created the sets to welcome children from all over









the world and help them think about the Savior. Those sets are still displayed at Christmastime on Temple Square. There are sets from Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, and Poland. If you look closely, you can see some unusual gifts for the baby Jesus!

Above: Liza and Hiram stop to look at the life-sized nativity scene near the Tabernacle and listen to the Christmas story over a loudspeaker.



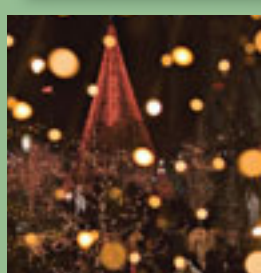


TRIVIA

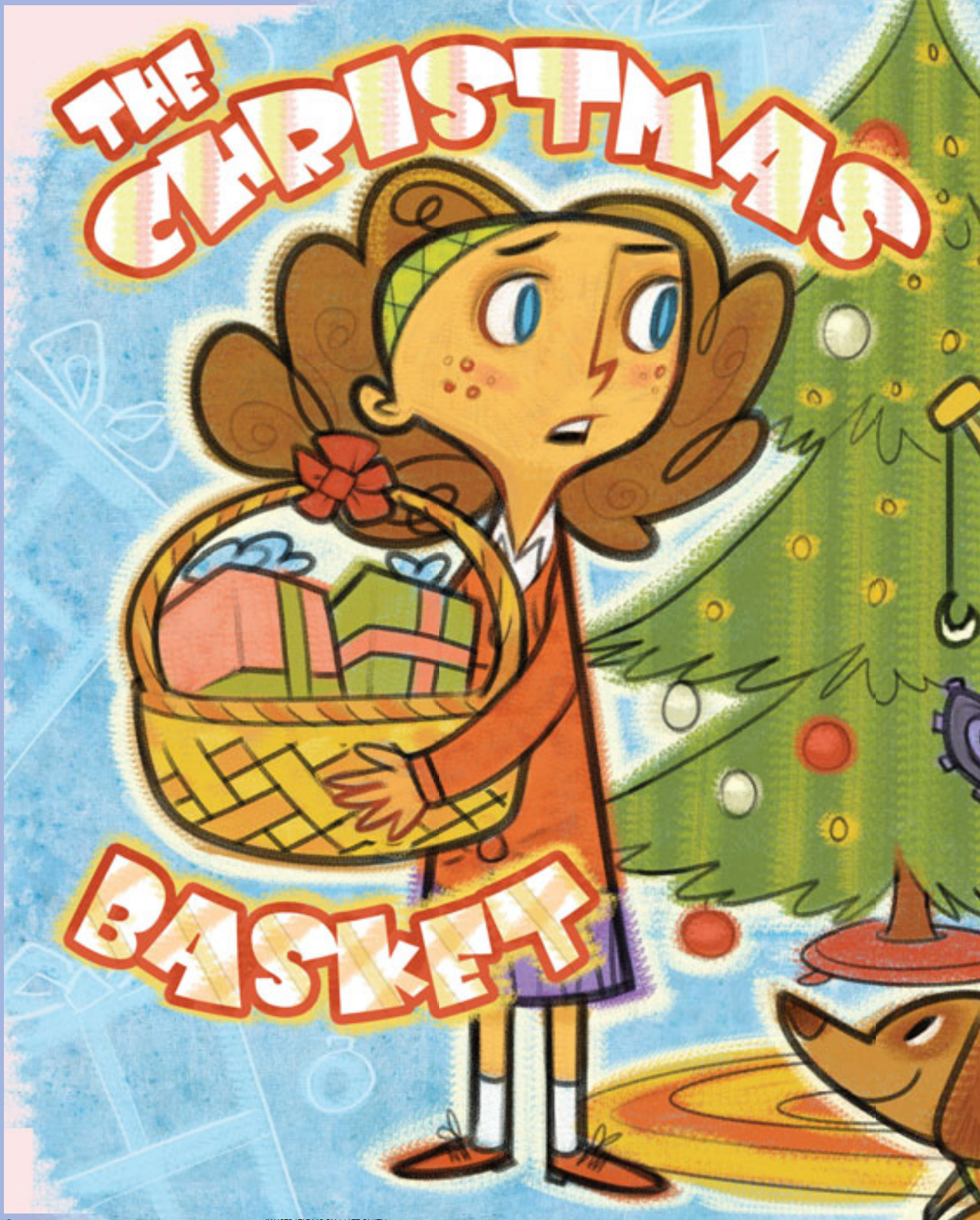
- About a million people visit Temple Square at Christmastime.
- There are dozens of lighted trees on Temple Square. Just one tree has 75,000 individual lights. How many lights would you guess there are all over Temple Square? LED lightbulbs are now being used to help save electricity.
- Workers start putting up Christmas lights on August 1 and finish taking them down by March 31.
- Children helped make the luminarias (right) on the Church Office Building plaza. Christmas messages are written on some of them in different languages.
- Today the lights are turned on by computer. But years ago children helped plug in the lights on the night when the lights were turned on for the season. Once when one little girl plugged in her string of lights and all of Temple Square lit up at the same time, she thought she had lit all the lights herself!







PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRAIG DIMOND



ILLUSTRATIONS BY MATT SMITH



BY KATE STRONGIN
(Based on a true story)

God loveth a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

"Katie, time for family home evening!" Dad called.

Katie jumped off her bed and ran to the living room. She could smell the pine tree and see the lights sparkling on the shiny ornaments. Her little brother, Seth, was examining the gifts under the tree.

The family sang "The First Noel," and Seth said the opening prayer. Then Dad told them about the Thomas family. This year they could not afford presents or a nice dinner for Christmas.

"No presents on Christmas? We have to help them!" Seth exclaimed.

"That's what we were thinking," Mom said. "But that means we won't be able to afford as many gifts for you. You will only get one present each."

"They're my friends," Seth said. "I want to help them!"

"What about you?" Mom asked, putting her arm around Katie.

"I want to help too," Katie said.

Mom smiled. "We have a lot to do. We'd better get started."

All week, the family worked to fill the Thomas family's Christmas basket. Mom made the food. Katie went to the toy store with Dad to pick out toys for the three Thomas children.

The Saturday before Christmas, it was time to put the basket together. Katie carefully placed in the gifts she had wrapped. She felt warm inside, knowing she was helping the Thomases have a nice Christmas.

Just then, Seth came in carrying some other presents.

"These are for Jake and Ryan," he said. "Can you wrap them for me?"

"Sure," Katie said. Seth handed her a little crane, one of his old toys.

Katie frowned. "Why are you giving them this? I don't think they'll like your old stuff."

"Yes, they will," Seth insisted.

Katie wrapped the crane as neatly as she could. "At least I can make it look like a nice present," she thought.

Then Seth handed her a jar filled with pennies, nickels, and dimes. Katie sighed as she wrapped the jar. Seth was just too little to pick out gifts for his friends.

Later that night, Katie's family dropped off the Christmas basket. Dad set it on the Thomas family's doorstep, rang the doorbell, and ran back to the car. "Mission accomplished," he said, catching his breath.

Katie was so excited. She wished she could see the children's faces when they unwrapped their gifts. Except for Seth's gifts.

The next week at church, Katie and Seth went to the Relief Society room after Primary to find Mom. Sister Goldman, who lived next door to the Thomases, was telling Mom about the Christmas basket someone had mysteriously left on the Thomas family's doorstep.

"I gave Jake the crane," Seth said proudly.

"Seth, you weren't supposed to tell," Katie scolded.

Sister Goldman turned to Seth. "Jake loved the crane," she said. "That was the only thing he had wanted for Christmas."

Seth beamed.

Sister Goldman continued. "Ryan has been trying to save money for his mission. His mom told him that if he paid his tithing he would be blessed. And then he got a jar full of money."

Katie couldn't believe it! Jake and Ryan had loved the gifts that Seth picked out for them. She put her arm around Seth. She was proud of him. His gifts hadn't looked like much, but Heavenly Father had known what they would mean to two boys. ●
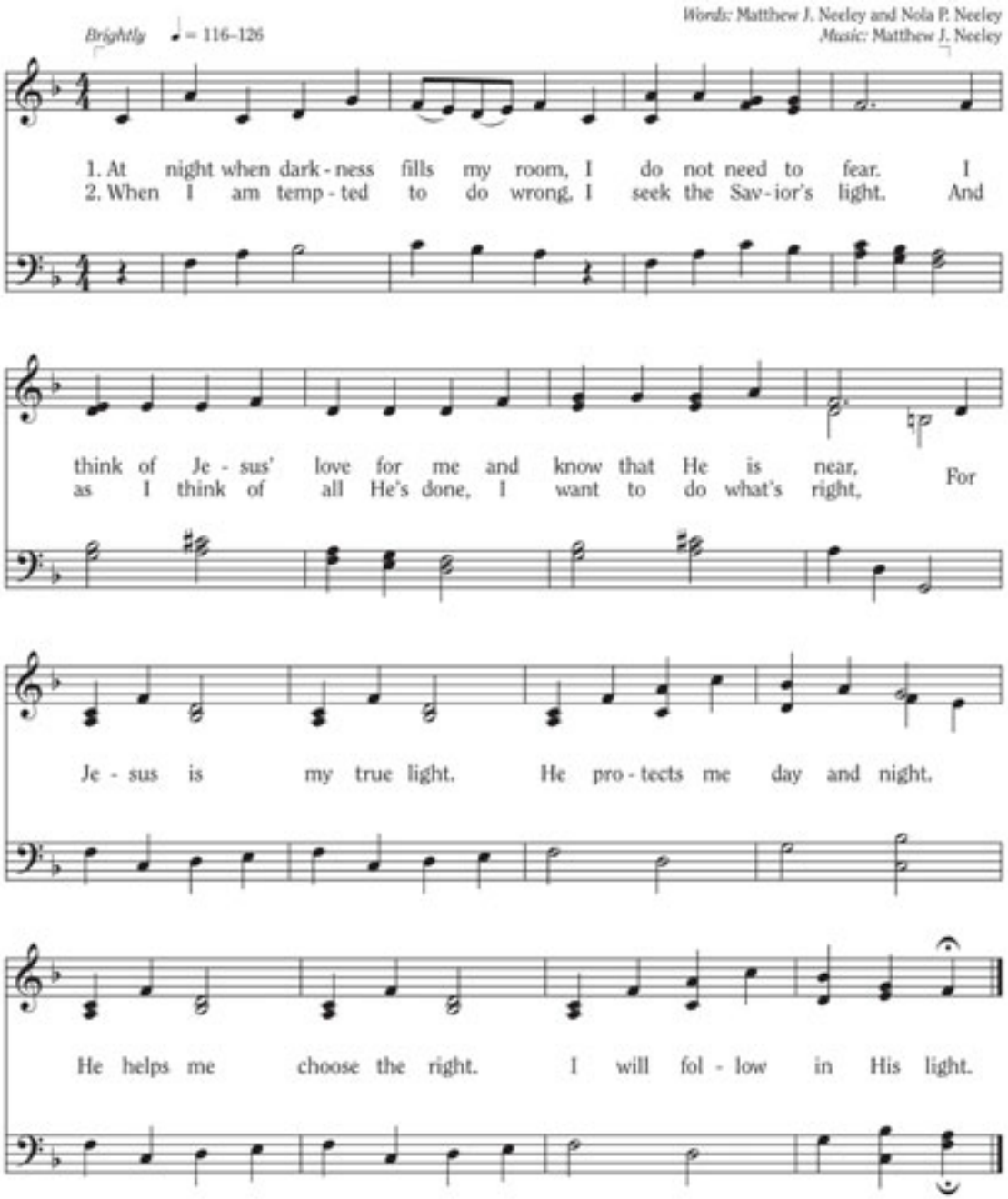


"Christmas is . . . a time to remember and show the love Jesus asked us to have for everyone."[2]

Sister Vicki F. Matsumori, second counselor in the Primary general presidency



Jesus Is My True Light



Doctrine and Covenants 88:50; 93:2

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Alexander G., age 8, Washington

A Family

A life becomes a family,
A house becomes a home,
A family becomes an eternity,
When we enter God's own home.

Makayla E., age 10, Utah

Would you like to send us a poem or drawing? Turn to page 49 to find out how.

Baptism Haiku

Immersed in water
Lovingly by the priesthood
I am clean and pure

Rev'rently I know
Hands are laid upon my head
Give the Holy Ghost

In my heart I know
The Holy Ghost is guiding
Me through my whole life

Jesus died for me
On the third day He rose up
From the chains of death

I can live again
Because of His sacrifice
Family with me

Through the Atonement
I can repent of my sins
And return to Him

Abigail R., age 9, Montana

The Beauty of the Earth

The beauty of the earth,
How wonderful it is.
Every day I see it.

The earth is ever changing,
As seasons turn round and round.
The beauty of earth:

Blossoming trees, blossoming flowers,
Beautiful spring colors,
Every day I see it.

A hot wind blowing,
Sage grass flowing to and fro,
The beauty of the earth,

Oak leaves falling their many colors,
Cherry trees gray and bare,
Every day I see it.

Snow covers all life in sight.
The gophers in their dens sleep.
The beauty of the earth,
Every day I see it.

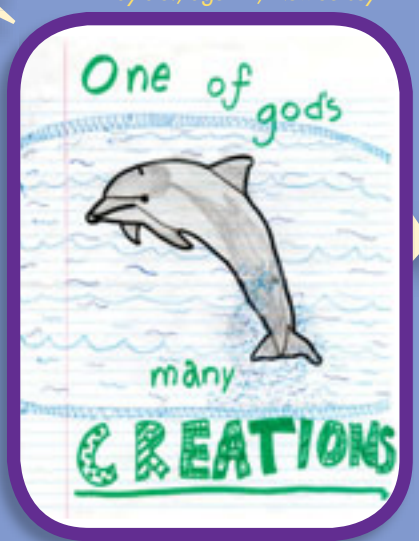
Josephine S., age 9, Arkansas



Kayla J., age 11, New Jersey



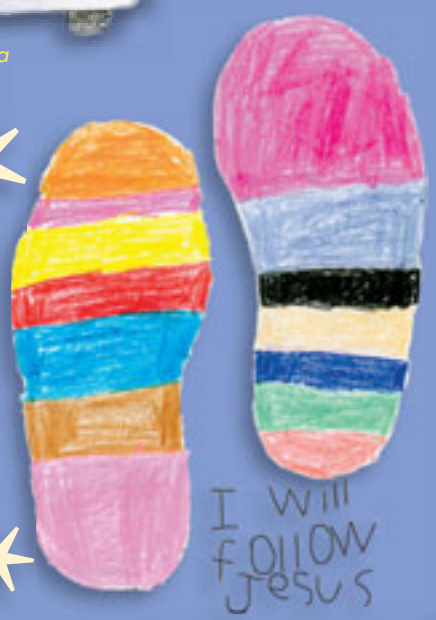
Seth M., age 10, Virginia



Michelle T., age 11, Washington



Olivia C., age 8, Utah



Kyler V., age 6, Utah



Chloe T., age 7, Ohio



Conner C., age 10, Arizona



Lynette J., age 11, Idaho



Caleb C., age 10, Iowa



Shelly R., age 10, Florida



Matthew B., age 10, Utah



Celeste T., age 8, Arizona



Ethan P., age 9, New Zealand

I WILL REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST









Note: This activity may be copied or printed from the Internet at friend.lds.org. Gospel art may be printed from the Internet at gospelart.lds.org.

I Will Remember Jesus Christ

I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth (Job 19:25).

BY CHERYL ESPLIN



When Jesus lived on the earth, He went about doing good—teaching His gospel and healing the sick.

Jesus had no sin, but He suffered and died for the sins of all mankind. After three days He was resurrected. Jesus brought about the Atonement through His suffering, death, and Resurrection.

Each Sunday at church when you take the sacrament, you should remember Jesus Christ's Atonement, as well as the promises you make to Heavenly Father when you are baptized. The sacrament is a time to think about how much Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father love you. It is a time to repent and think about what you can do to become more like Them.

As you sing the sacrament hymn, listen to the words. Listen carefully to the sacrament prayers. Think about what you learn and what you feel.

Activity

Remove page 14 from the magazine, and mount it on heavier paper. Fold the sacrament booklet on the dotted lines. When you sing the sacrament hymn at church, listen for what the words say about Jesus Christ. When you get home each week, write one thing in your booklet that you learned about Jesus from the hymn.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PAUL MANN

SHARING TIME IDEAS

December Theme: *My family is blessed when we remember Jesus Christ.*

(Note: All songs are from *Children's Songbook* unless otherwise noted; *TNGC* = *Teaching, No Greater Call;* GAK = Gospel Art Picture Kit.) Gospel art can also be found at gospelart.lds.org.

1. ***Jesus was born into a family.*** Work with the music leader to prepare a sing-a-story to teach about Jesus's birth into a family (see "Music with Narratives," *TNGC,* 174–75). You might consider having children dress in simple costumes to represent the characters in the story, or use pictures from the GAK. Example: Christmas is the season when we celebrate the joyful birth of Jesus Christ. Sing "The Nativity Song" (pp. 52–53). Heavenly Father promised to send His Son to be the Savior of the World (see John 3:16). Sing "He Sent His Son" (pp. 34–35). Prophets such as Samuel the Lamanite foretold the birth and mission of Jesus Christ (see Helaman 14:1–6). Sing "Samuel Tells of the Baby Jesus" (p. 36). An angel told Mary she would be the mother of Jesus (see Luke 1:26–35). Joseph was Mary's husband. Heavenly Father chose them to help take care of Jesus (see Matthew 1:20–24). Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem to be counted in a census (see Luke 2:1–5). Sing "When Joseph Went to Bethlehem" (pp. 37–38). Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable because there was no room for His family at the inn (see Luke 2:6–7). Sing "Away in a Manger" (pp. 42–43). Angels and shepherds shared in the joy of the birth of Jesus (see Luke 2:8–16). Sing "Picture a Christmas" (pp. 50–51). Bear testimony of the divinity of Christ's birth.

2. ***I remember Jesus when I partake of the sacrament.*** Show the children GAK 225 (The Last Supper). Tell the story of the Last Supper from Matthew 26:17–30. Read together Luke 22:19, and have the children repeat the words "This do in remembrance of me." Sing the first verse of "The Sacrament" (p. 72). Explain that today we participate in the sacrament just as Jesus taught the Apostles to do. Partaking of the sacrament gives us an opportunity to remember the Savior and His Atonement. Show sacrament trays. Help the children understand that the bread reminds us of Jesus's body and the water reminds us of His blood.

Write the following question on the board: "What can you do to remember Jesus as you partake of the sacrament?" Ask the children to think of ideas (see "Brainstorming," *TNGC,* 160–61). Give them one minute to think quietly, and then ask them to respond. Write responses on the board. (Examples: read a scripture about Jesus, listen to the sacrament prayers, think about Jesus's Atonement, read the sacrament hymn, think about how to be more like Jesus.) Sing the second verse of "The Sacrament." Encourage the children to try one of the suggestions from the board the next time they attend sacrament meeting. Bear testimony of the importance of remembering Jesus as we partake of the sacrament.

3. ***Remembering Jesus helps me choose the right.*** Put GAK 240 (Jesus the Christ) in a box, and wrap it to look like a Christmas gift. Show the wrapped box, and tell the children that inside is something that represents the greatest gift we have ever been given. Have the children ask yes-or-no questions to guess what it is. Let the child who guesses correctly unwrap the gift. Post the picture of Jesus on the board. Remind the children that Christmas is a special time to remember Jesus Christ.

Beforehand, make the following wordstrips, and place them in random order around the room: "Jesus was baptized," "Jesus served others," "Jesus prayed to the Father," "Jesus went about doing good," "Jesus loves us," "Jesus learned to work," and "Jesus honored His mother." Do a matching activity to help the children visualize how remembering Jesus can influence their choices. Divide the board into two columns. At the top of one column, write *Remembering Jesus*. At the top of the second, write *helps me choose the right*. Give each class a scripture reference or GAK picture that tells about part of Jesus's life. Examples: Matthew 3:13–17—Jesus was baptized; John 13:4–15—Jesus served others; 3 Nephi 17:15—Jesus prayed to the Father; John 15:12—Jesus loved us; GAK 206 (Childhood of Jesus Christ)—Jesus learned to work; GAK 242 (Jesus and His Mother)—Jesus honored His mother. Ask the children to read the scripture or study the picture and find the wordstrip that describes it. When each class chooses correctly, place the wordstrip in the first column. Help the children think of a similar choice they can make, such as I will be baptized, I will serve others, I will pray to Heavenly Father, I will love others, I will learn to work, or I will honor my mother. Write it in the second column across from the matching wordstrip.

Sing "I'm Trying to Be like Jesus" (pp. 78–79). Express your gratitude for the wonderful gift of Jesus Christ, and bear testimony of the power of His example in helping us choose the right.

4. ***Jesus will come again.*** Show GAK 238 (The Second Coming). Tell the children that when Jesus comes again, He will come in power and glory and everyone will know who He is. Sing "When He Comes Again" (pp. 82–83). Have the children repeat the phrase "I wonder, when he comes again, will I be ready there." Teach that when Jesus comes again, it will be a great day for those who are prepared. Jesus taught the importance of preparing for His Second Coming in a parable about 10 women and their lamps. Help the children dramatize the story found in Matthew 25:1–13. Explain that the Savior compared the wedding to His Second Coming. Emphasize that because the five wise women were prepared, they were allowed into the wedding. Likewise, if we are prepared when Jesus comes, we will be able to live with Him and Heavenly Father again.

Have the children use clay or salt dough (for recipe, see *TNGC,* 165) to mold a small bowl that fits inside a cupped hand. Explain that this would be similar in size and shape to the ancient lamps used by the 10 women. Emphasize that oil lamps cannot give light unless they have oil to burn. Give each class a copy of My Gospel Standards, and explain that living those standards is like adding oil to their lamps in preparation for Jesus's Second Coming. Have the teachers read through the standards with their class, and then help each child choose a standard to work on in the coming week. Provide beans or small pebbles to represent drops of oil. Have the teachers put one in the children's lamps when they make their choice. Encourage the children to tell their family the story of the 10 women and to share with them what their bean or pebble represents. Bear testimony that Jesus will come again.

5. *Friend* references: "Jesus the Christ," Feb. 1996, inside front cover; "Jesus Grew Up in a Righteous Family," Dec. 2004, 16–17; "Questions and Answers about the Sacrament," Mar. 2008, 24–25; "Remembering Jesus Christ," June 1999, 10–11; "Special Witness," Aug. 2007, 22; "Choices and Gospel Guideposts," Feb. 1989, 12–13; "The Ten Virgins," Jan. 2003, 10–12; "The Second Coming," Dec. 2002, 10–12.

They Spoke to Us

Quotes from the October 2009 general conference



"Love is the motivating principle by which the Lord leads us along the way towards becoming like Him, *our perfect example*. Our way of life, hour by hour, must be filled with the love of God and love for others."
—President Henry B. Eyring



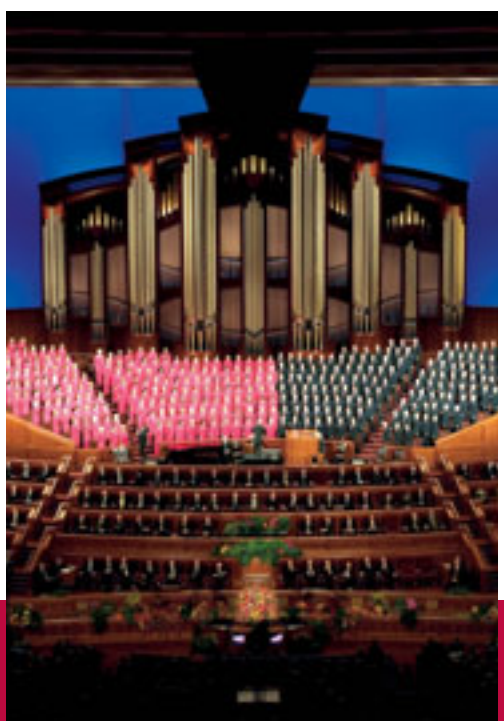
"I love you, my brothers and sisters. I pray for you. I would ask once again that you would remember me and all the General Authorities in your prayers. We are one with you in moving forward this marvelous work. I testify to you that we are all in this together and that every man, woman, and child has a part to play."
—President Thomas S. Monson



"I testify that God is in His heaven. He lives. He knows and loves you. He is mindful of you. He hears your prayers and knows the desires of your heart. He is filled with infinite love for you."
—President Dieter F. Uchtdorf



"Children, when was the last time you told your parents that you love them? . . . We can become more diligent and concerned at home as we express love—and consistently show it."
—Elder David A. Bednar





"The Holy Ghost has confirmed to me that God the Father lives. He loves each of us. He knows us individually and personally. He hears the pleadings of our hearts, and He answers those sincere prayers."
—Sister Vicki F. Matsumori

It shouldn't be hard, even though I am small, to think about Jesus, not hard at all (*Children's Songbook,* 71).

A Gift for Jesus

BY JANE MCBRIDE CHOATE
(Based on a true story)

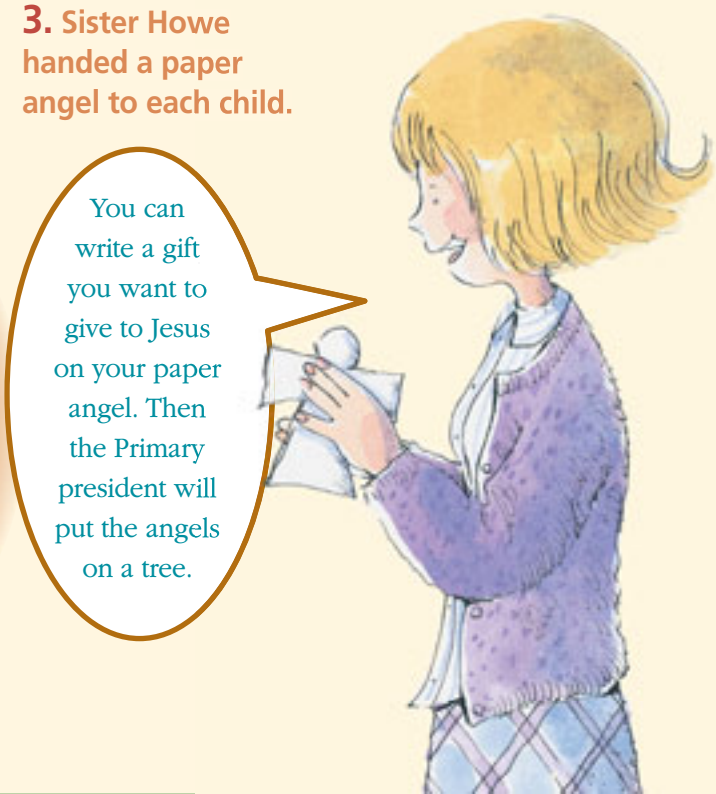
1. Anna sat with her CTR 6 class in the Primary room. Sister Howe told the class,



2. Christina and Mason said,



3. Sister Howe handed a paper angel to each child.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ELISE BLACK



Jesus Is Born

One day the  visited  . The 

told  she would be the mother of the Son of God.

The  said the child's name would be Jesus. 

was married to  . The emperor made  and

 travel to  to pay taxes. The trip was

hard for  because Jesus would be born soon. When

 and  got to  , all of the inns

were filled.  and  had to stay in a

 with  . Jesus was born in the

 .  wrapped Jesus in cloth and laid

Him in a  . An angel visited 

and told them that Jesus had been born. The 

visited Jesus and then told many people that they

saw Jesus.

4. Anna wrote,



5. The next Sunday, Anna saw the angel tree at church. She looked for her angel and saw it on a branch in the middle.



THE NATIVITY © 1985 ROBERT BARRETT

In the Giving Spirit

People in this city are spreading Christmas cheer in many different ways. All of the scenes in these circles are in the big picture. Can you find and circle each one? What other acts of kindness can you find?



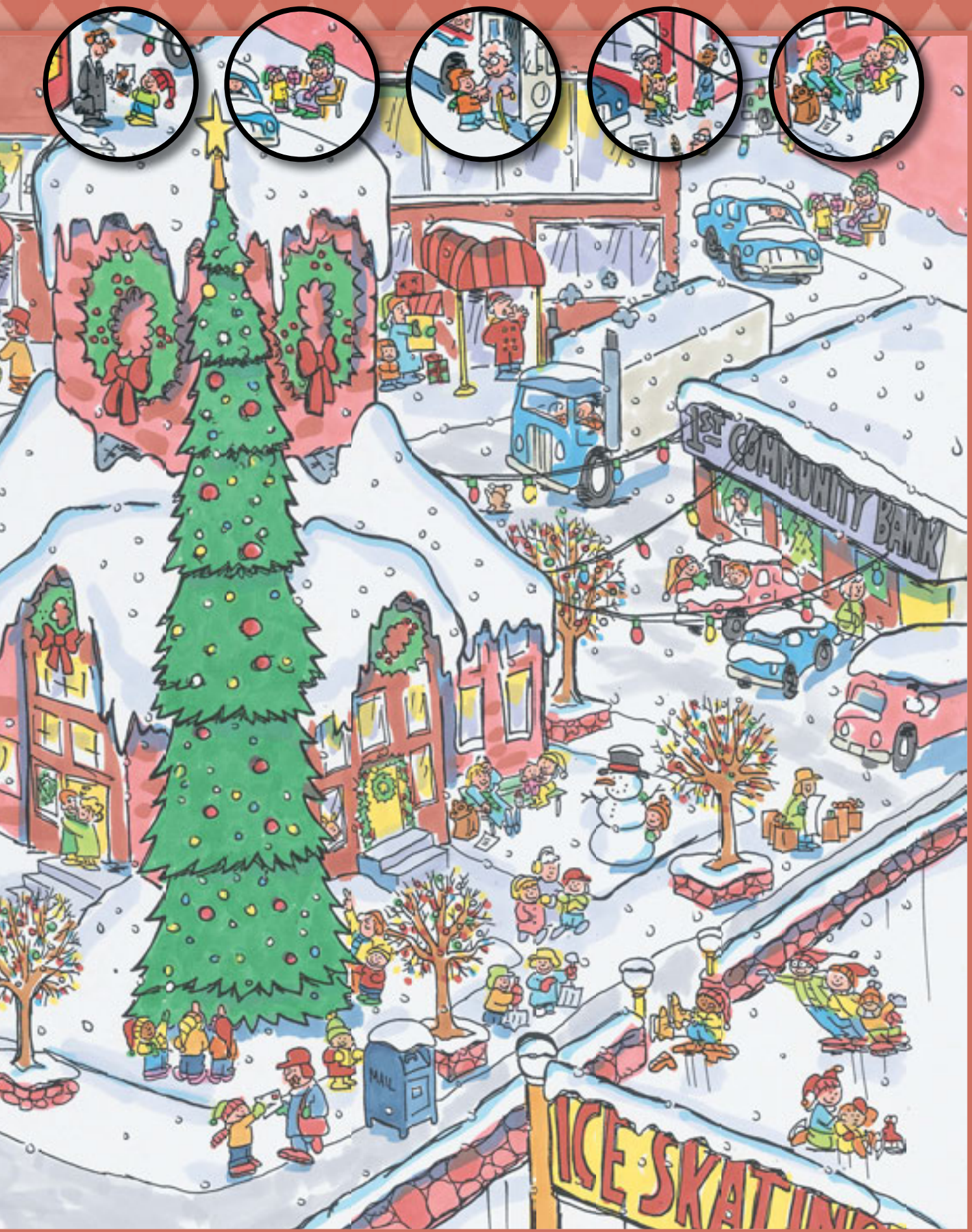


ILLUSTRATION BY VAL CHADWICK BAGLEY



Bundling Up

BY JAN PINBOROUGH
Church Magazines

When the school bell rang on Friday afternoon, big white snowflakes were falling thick and fast. It was the last day of school before Christmas vacation, and the world looked like a wintry wonderland.

But the activity day girls of the East Mill Creek Fourth Ward in Salt Lake City, Utah, had more to think about than making snowmen or going sledding. They had a mission of love. This afternoon they would be making hats and scarves to keep other children warm on frosty days.

Right after school, the girls bundled up and headed to the church. They stomped the snow off their shoes and took off their coats. Then it was straight to work.

The girls turned the Relief Society room into a busy, colorful workshop. At one table, girls cut cozy fleece and fringed and tied the ends to make scarves.

Other girls sat in a circle and knitted warm hats for children and infants. Using special knitting frames, even the youngest girls became expert hat makers.

At another table, girls made snowy white pom-poms to give the hats a fun finishing touch. Abby C., age 10, also brought a quilt she made at home to donate to the project.

The girls would give all their handiwork to the Humanitarian Center. They were happy to know that somewhere in the world, on another cold winter day, some other children just like them will be warmer.

"This was a great opportunity," said Olivia V., age 9. "It was our dream to help people."



"Christmas isn't just when you get presents. It's when you help people in need." Bailey B., age 9



"I love helping other people, and I love making hats." Abby C., age 8

PHOTOGRAPHS BY CRISTY POWELL

for Christmas



"This is fun!" Jenna U., age 8

"I'm glad we're making these because we have jackets and coats, but they don't have any. I want to make a lot of hats." Bailey B., age 9

"I felt very warm inside, and I know my Heavenly Father is happy." Emma H., age 11



"I love helping people in need because if I were them I would love them to do that for me." Abby C., age 10



"I enjoyed making the hats because I felt like I finally wasn't getting but I was giving." Sarah B., age 8

"It's the miracle of giving to people who need it more." Madison T., age 11



"It made me feel happy! I will always remember this project. I love to serve others." Eliza Z., age 11

"I am happy that I can make a difference at this young age." Nicole G., age 10

"I felt so good inside because I was doing a service for others because I'm trying to be like Jesus and be closer to Him." Ramona P., age 9



25

Even though we celebrate in different ways, Christmas gives us the opportunity to remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas around the World

BY SHARA BRAITHWAITE

Children around the world celebrate Christmas in different ways. This calendar describes some of them. Cut out the pictures on page 34. Place this calendar on a wall in your home. Beginning on December 1, find the picture that is described by the words for the day. Then paste the picture on the square for that day.

1 In Japan, children love to eat Christmas cake with strawberries and whipped cream.	2 In Finland, families visit cemeteries on Christmas Eve and place candles on the graves of loved ones.	3 In India, people put small clay lamps on the roofs of their homes to show that Jesus is the Light of the World.	4 In Ireland, families place candles in the windows of their homes to show that they would have welcomed Mary and Joseph.
German children leave their shoes or boots by	In Australia, many people	Families in Argentina light diamond-shaped paper	In Venezuela, children

ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT GREER

the fireplace or outside their front doors. The next morning, the shoes are filled with candy.

5

In Australia, many people go to the beach and sing Christmas carols.

6

diamond-shaped paper balloons called *globos* on Christmas Eve and release them into the night sky.

7

roller-skate in the streets early on Christmas morning.

8

In the United States, people decorate evergreen trees with small lights, tinsel, and ornaments.

9

Families in the Philippines decorate with *parols,* which are star shapes made out of bamboo and tissue paper and lit with tiny lights.

10

In Liberia, families eat dinner outside, sitting in a circle. A traditional Liberian Christmas dinner includes biscuits, rice, and beef.

11

In Bulgaria, everybody at the table stands at the same time when dinner is over.

12

On this day in Sweden, a young girl wears a white dress with a red sash and serves bread and biscuits.

13

In Holland, families celebrate on Christmas Eve by drinking hot chocolate and eating *banketletter,* a cake that looks like the first letter of the family's last name.

14

In Norway, children eat rice pudding. The child who finds the hidden nut wins a candy pig or a piece of chocolate.

15

Mexican families cut designs in paper bags to make lanterns, or *farolitos.* Candles are placed inside the *farolitos,* which line the sidewalks, windows, and rooftops.

16

Children in Spain are given toys, sweets, or small instruments as they go from house to house reciting verses or singing carols.

17

One week before Christmas, Italian children dress as shepherds and go from door to door singing songs and reciting poems.

18

Children in England receive a paper-covered tube, called a Christmas cracker, at Christmas dinner. The tube cracks loudly when pulled apart. A paper hat, poem, or small toy is inside.

19

In New Zealand, many cities have celebrations in parks. People listen to well-known singers sing Christmas carols.

20

Tongan families get up early to make and deliver breakfast to their neighbors. Children are excited to deliver these breakfasts and see what the neighbors bring.

21

In Paraguay, people decorate their homes with coco flowers.

22

In Lebanon, chickpeas, wheat, beans, and lentils are planted two weeks before Christmas. The sprouts are used to surround the nativity scene in the home.

23

In Ghana, families stay up all evening playing games. Just before midnight, the family counts down the seconds until Christmas day.

24

funstuf

Christmas Tree Matching

Many of the parts of a Christmas tree can remind us of Jesus.
See if you can match the colors and shapes with what they stand for. Then color the Christmas tree.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

6. 



A. The new star shining over Bethlehem

B. Love and courage—the blood Jesus shed for us

C. Life—the color of living plants

D. Eternal life

E. The staffs of the shepherds who came to see baby Jesus

F. What Jesus gave us and what we want to give to Him

ANSWERS 1) C, 2) D, 3) A, 4) E, 5) F, 6) B.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD TEARE



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SHAUNA MOONEY KAWASAKI

*Luke 2:13–14.



The Missing Egg



ILLUSTRATION BY MARK ROBISON

BY GEORGE STERLING SPENCER
(Based on a true story)

Every man shall give as he is able (Deuteronomy 16:17).

One year when I was about eight years old, Dad told my brother, my sister, and me that there would not be much money for Christmas gifts. He suggested we use our imagination and talents to make gifts for each other.

I made gifts for Dad, my sister, and my brother, but I had trouble thinking of a gift I could make for my mother. I thought for a long time.

Finally, I came up with a plan. My mother was well known for her sponge cakes with orange-peel frosting. She often made them for fundraisers, and everyone loved them. But making a sponge cake took a lot of egg yolks, and this year there had not been enough eggs. I wanted to give my mother a dozen eggs for Christmas.

Dad had put me in charge of taking care of the young chickens. Usually, these chickens would start laying eggs in January, but I figured if I took extra special care of them they would start earlier.

Twice every day, right on time, I fed the chickens by hand. I carried warm water from the house for them to drink. I covered the windows with burlap to keep the chicken coop warmer. I even cleaned the coop and made six nests with fresh straw.

Every day, I checked the nests for eggs. December came, and there were still no eggs. In my prayers, I began to ask for the chickens to be blessed.

Finally, 12 days before Christmas, I found an egg! I kept checking every day, and carefully collected the eggs in a carton.

Two days before Christmas, my father announced that we would leave early the next morning for Grandma's house. My heart sank. I only had 11 eggs! I was one egg short of my goal.

All night I tossed and turned. I got up early the next morning and ran to the coop to see if there was another egg. There were none.

At Grandma's house, I wrapped the 11-egg surprise in pretty paper and ribbon and put it with the other gifts under the tree. I wondered if my mother would be disappointed about the missing egg.

On Christmas morning, my curious mother unwrapped the carton. A look of amazement spread over her face. Then happy tears filled her eyes and streamed down her cheeks. She looked at me lovingly and told me what a special gift I had given her. There were just 11 eggs, but I had done my best to show my love.

"If every one of us would make the effort to do our best, the world would be much better, and we would be much happier."[3]

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008)





Christmas Workshop

BY LINDSAY LAW

Christmas Gift Cheese Dip

1/2 teaspoon dried dill
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
8 ounces (227 g) cream cheese, softened
empty cream-cheese box
1 green onion
crackers



1. Mix the dill, garlic powder, and salt into the softened cream cheese.
2. Line the cream-cheese box with plastic wrap and pack the mixture into it.
3. Refrigerate for 3 hours. Unwrap the block of cheese and place it on a plate or platter. Make a bow out of a piece of the green onion and serve with crackers.

Song Scramble

Unscramble the following Christmas songs and sing a few of them with your family.

1. O Tiletl Nowt fo Mehtbelhe
2. Eth Tsfir Lneo
3. Nsltie Ihgnt
4. Yaaw ni a Gamner
5. Ti Maec nopu eht Nidmgthi Lecra
6. Ojy ot teh Lrodw
7. I Dehar eth Lelbs no Sacrsitmh Yda
8. Galnes Ew Vhae Dhare no Gihh

Shining Star Cookies

1 stick butter, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 egg
1 1/2 cups flour
1 cup colored hard candies

1. Mix butter and sugar together until they are smooth.
2. Add the egg and vanilla to the butter mixture.
3. Add flour and stir until combined.
4. Take the batter out of the bowl and wrap it in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least an hour. On a floured surface, roll out the dough one-third at a time with a rolling pin to a 1/3-inch thickness. Cut out the cookies with a star-shaped cookie cutter, and then cut out the middle of the cookies with a smaller star-shaped cookie cutter. Sprinkle flour on the dough if it is too sticky. (Options: You can bake both parts of the cookies and have two kinds of stars, or you can roll dough from the small stars for more cookies.)
5. Cover a cookie sheet with foil and coat it with cooking spray.
6. Bake the cookies at 350°F (177°C) for 4 minutes.
7. Meanwhile, unwrap the candies and put them in a plastic bag. Seal the bag and put it inside another plastic bag.
8. Wrap the bags in a dish towel and place on a cutting board.
9. Have an adult break the candy into small pieces with a rolling pin.
10. Carefully put candy pieces inside each star cookie, filling the tips of the stars.
11. Put the cookies back in the oven for 5-7 minutes, or until the candy is melted and the dough is light brown.





ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERIC BARCLAY / PHOTOGRAPHS BY MICHAEL SANDBERG





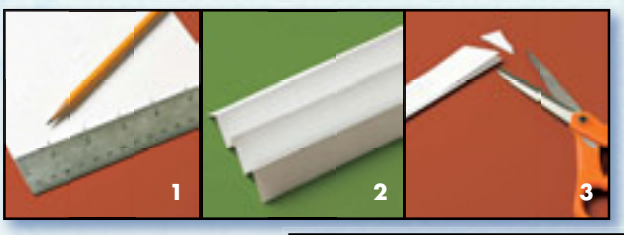
Paper Stars



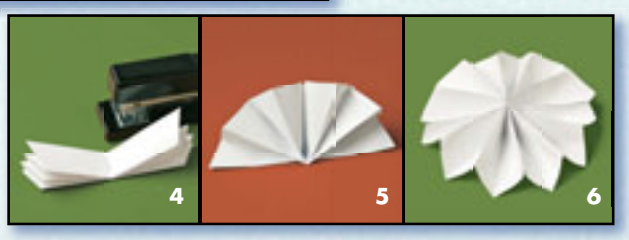
Make these stars to hang on your tree, decorate your house, or give to a friend.

ruler
6 x 6-inch white, colored, or patterned paper
scissors
stapler
tape or glue
single hole punch
ribbon or string

1. Using a ruler, make one-inch marks along one side of the paper.



2. Fold the paper like an accordion into one-inch segments.



3. Cut diagonally on each end so that your paper has a triangular edge on both sides.

4. Staple in the middle of the accordion.

5. Pull out either side of the accordion and staple, tape, or glue the edges together to form a half circle.

6. Repeat steps 1–5 with a second piece of paper to make another half circle. Staple, tape, or glue the two half circles together to form a complete star.

7. Punch a hole in the top of the star and thread a ribbon or piece of string through it so that you can hang it up.



Memory Box

Separately wrap a small box and its lid with pretty paper. Then fill it with the items listed below that will remind you of the Christmas story. Write the scriptures on pieces of paper and put them in the box. For a family activity, have each family member choose a scripture, read the verses, and then choose the item that matches the scripture.



* Find a piece of **shiny material** or a **plastic gem** to remind you that the Wise Men brought Jesus gifts (Matthew 2:11).
* Put in a **piece of fabric** to remind you of the swaddling clothes Jesus was wrapped in (Luke 2:12).
* Place a **picture of sheep**, a **small figurine**, or a **piece of wool** to remind you about the shepherds who visited Jesus (Luke 2:8–20).
* Put in a **small angel ornament** to remind you of the angels who proclaimed Jesus's birth (Luke 2:9–14).
* Cut a **star** out of white or yellow paper to remind you of the star that showed the Wise Men where to find Jesus (Matthew 2:9–10).

ANSWERS

1) O Little Town of Bethlehem, 2) The First Noel, 3) Silent Night, 4) Away in a Manger, 5) It Came upon the Midnight Clear, 6) Joy to the World, 7) I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, 8) Angels We Have Heard on High.



Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles shares some of his thoughts on this subject.

Why is what I wear to **church** important?

Our temples and meetinghouses are dedicated to the Lord as sacred space. . . . A sense of the sacred should lead us to act and speak with reverence in and around these buildings.

It offends God when we come into His house, especially on His holy day, not groomed and dressed in the most careful and modest manner that our circumstances permit.

I hope you will think and feel and dress and act in ways that show reverence and respect for sacred things, sacred places, sacred occasions.

When you develop a deepening reverence for sacred things, the Holy Spirit becomes your constant companion.

You are a Saint of the great latter-day dispensation—look the part.

SOAP

From "A Sense of the Sacred," New Era, *June 2006, 28–31.*

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRAD TEARE

Friends in the News

Meet some Primary children from the New Delhi First Branch in India!



Cynthia S., 8, is called "Twinkle" by her family. She does well in school, where she is learning to read Hindi and English. She often helps her parents and grandfather at home, and she likes to dance.



Joshua J., 6, likes to sing at church. "I Am a Child of God" is his favorite Primary song. He often plays with his toy cars, and he especially likes to play with his cousins.



Anchul and **Selvy K.,** 5 and 6, enjoy playing catch with their dad. Anchul is curious and likes to learn about cars. Selvy studies English and Hindi in school, and she recently learned to ride a bicycle. Anchul and Selvy help clean up after dinner every night. Their favorite foods are rice and yellow dal (lentils).



Parker W., 4, greets everyone in church with a handshake and a smile. At home, he likes to play with blocks and watch cartoons. He also helps his parents with the dishes.



Isaac, Russell, and **Graham C.,** 7, 5, and 2, enjoy living in New Delhi, India. Isaac is good at inventing things. Russell runs fast and likes to race his brothers in the park. Graham likes to eat spicy food, take rides on bicycle rickshaws, and say hello to the cows and dogs in the streets.



John and **Natalia M.,** 11 and 8, Florida, both enjoy reading the Book of Mormon and attending Primary. John won an award for reading 15 million words! John and Natalia are both great readers.



Bryce J., 11, Utah, is a good friend and fun to be around. He likes to read and write and wants to be an author when he grows up. His favorite hymn is "The Spirit of God." Bryce tries to keep the commandments and knows he is a son of God.



Savannah W., 10, Utah, is thoughtful, helpful, and lots of fun. She enjoys dance, art, piano, and singing. Her favorite scripture story is about Esther. She wants to be courageous and good—just like Esther was.



Ty F., 4, Missouri, loves music and can often be found singing. He likes playing with his brother and best friend, Luke. He enjoys swimming, eating treats, and family home evening. He has a great laugh and smile. He is very special to his family.



Janessa C., 8, Utah, enjoys reading, drawing, and playing with friends. She tries hard to make new friends every day.



Justin A., 5, Utah, loves the *Friend* so much he created his own. He colored pictures and wrote stories about the prophet, the temple, and being a friend. He also put in games, a family home evening page, a recipe, and even hid a CTR ring inside.

Mount Olympus Eighth Ward
The Primary children of the Mount Olympus Eighth Ward, Salt Lake Mount Olympus North Stake, donated money to the Perpetual Education Fund.





Jayden G., 6, California, enjoys his twin brother and sister, Josh and Jena. He makes sure he gives them a hug and a kiss before he leaves for school. He is a big help to his mom and dad.

For the activity and instructions, see pages 24-25.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SCOTT GREER

I Wasn't There

BY WENDY ELLISON

I wasn't there to see the star
That brightly led the way,
But I can have the Savior's light
To guide me every day.

I didn't feel the gentle peace
That fell on earth that night,
But I can feel His Spirit
When I'm doing what is right.

I didn't watch while Mary held
Her precious little one,
But I don't have to see to know
He is God's Chosen Son.

I wasn't with the shepherds
When they learned of Jesus's birth,
But I can learn and share His word
With others here on earth.

I didn't know the Wise Men,
With their treasures rare to give,
But I can give a priceless gift
Just in the way I live.

I didn't hear the angels sing
Hosannas sweet and clear,
But I can praise and honor Him
Each day throughout the year.

ILLUSTRATION BY SAM NIELSON



THE PINK DRESSER



BY ELEANOR ASHTON BADGER
(Based on a true story)





Give, then, as Jesus gives; there is something all can give (*Children's Songbook,* 236).

The night before Christmas had always been filled with wonder for my sister Phyllis and me. We spent hours guessing what surprises would await us in the morning. There were always two Christmas surprises that were the same—one for me and one for Phyllis.

"Ellie, do you remember how excited we were the year we found the baby dolls sitting in twin high chairs?" Phyllis asked. We were sitting in the bedroom we shared, too excited to sleep.

"Yours was wearing the blue outfit, mine was in pink," I said.

"And wasn't it fun the year we got those matching doll beds?" she asked.

What would our surprises be this year? Roller skates? Play dishes? Fancy dresses? We giggled with excitement.

"Listen!" Phyllis suddenly exclaimed. "I hear Dad's car pulling into the driveway!"

We dashed to the window, pressed our faces against the cold glass, and peeked out into the darkness of Christmas Eve. From our second-story window we looked down onto the driveway and saw something in the back of Dad's car. Something pink.

"Is it something for us?" Phyllis whispered.

"Well, something pink wouldn't be for any of our brothers!" I said. We covered our mouths, trying to quiet our laughter.

"Then the something in the car has to be for us!" Phyllis said. "Our two somethings!"

We scurried back to bed and snuggled beneath our blankets, wrapped in warmth and anticipation. We scarcely slept all night.

When morning finally arrived, Phyllis and I, our three brothers, and our older sister lined up to go into the living room. When Mother gave the signal, we rushed in, then stood dazzled by the glowing tree. It sparkled with its colored lights, shimmering icicles, our homemade paper chains, and loved ornaments.

Phyllis and I stood entranced, ready to burst with excitement. At the same time, our eyes fell on the Something Pink. It was a dresser, about four feet high. We gazed at the piece of furniture, with its mirror and still smelling of pine and fresh paint. We loved it!

Then, slowly, our awe turned to puzzlement. We whispered to each other, "Where's the other dresser? Which one of us is this for?"

Mother took us aside and gently told us, "Girls, there *were* two—one for each of you. But last night your father thought of a widow and her family. They don't have much, and she has two daughters. Your father wondered what kind of Christmas they would have. He took the other dresser to their home last night. This one is for you girls to share."

That Christmas was long ago. Phyllis and I shared and loved that pink dresser through childhood until each of us married. The dresser went from holding mittens and pretty rocks to holding dance programs and our marriage announcements.

Now, with daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters of our own, our Christmas surprise has been lovingly moved from one home to another and shared by many girls. Mothers have told their daughters the story of the pink dresser, and they have told their daughters.

If our little, worn pink treasure could speak, it might say that many girls have grown closer together because of a present two sisters shared, and a present they never received.



The original pink dresser, Ellie (now 91), and her great-granddaughter namesake Ellie.

ILLUSTRATION BY BRAD TEARE / PHOTOGRAPH (RIGHT) BY LISA BADGER

Primary Manners

BY JAN PINBOROUGH

(Based on a true story)

Be still and know that I am God (D&C 101:16).

Nathan held Mom's hand tightly as they walked into the Primary room. Today was Nathan's second week in the Sunbeam class. His stomach felt fluttery, and with each step, he walked a little more slowly.

Last week, Primary had been kind of confusing. During singing time, Mia kept standing up and turning around in circles. Nathan was tired of sitting, so he stood up too. But then his teacher asked him to sit back down. During sharing time, some of the older children talked and laughed. Sometimes it was too noisy to hear what Sister Miranda, the Primary president, was saying. When his friend Cara started crying, it made Nathan feel like crying too.

As he got closer to the front row, Nathan didn't want to let go of Mom's hand. He was worried that Primary would be confusing this week too. Then he saw his teacher.

"Hi, Nathan," Sister Tejada said. "I'm glad to see you." Sister Tejada patted the seat next to her.

Nathan liked his teacher's friendly smile. He let go of Mom's hand and sat down by Sister Tejada.

"I'll be back to pick you up after class," Mom said. "Remember to be reverent."

Nathan wasn't sure he knew how.

After the opening prayer, Sister Miranda stood up. "Today we have a special visitor," she said.

Suddenly, a puppet appeared from behind a table next to Sister Miranda. The puppet wiggled, waved his arms, and said, "Is it time to go yet? I need a drink!"

Some of the children giggled.

"This is Arlo's first time in Primary," Sister Miranda said, "and he doesn't know how to be reverent. But before he can be reverent, he needs to learn good Primary manners."

Nathan was surprised. At dinner Mom sometimes reminded him to put his napkin on his lap. That was good manners. And Dad always asked everyone to thank Mom for the nice meal before they started clearing off the table. That was good manners too. But what were Primary manners?

Arlo leaned backward over the front of the table. "Hey, everybody looks funny upside down!" he said.

"Good manners are rules that show we respect other people," Sister Miranda explained. "Arlo doesn't know the rules for good Primary manners. Do you think we could teach him?" she asked.

Sister Miranda went to the chalkboard and drew an arm. "What should Arlo do with his arms?" she asked.

"Fold them!" Mia called out.

"That's right," Sister Miranda said.

Arlo sat up. He folded his arms and raised them over his head. "Oh, you mean like this?" he asked.

Nathan knew that wasn't right.

Sister Miranda asked if everyone in Primary could show Arlo how to fold his arms.

Nathan quickly folded his arms. Arlo folded his arms too.

On the chalkboard, next to the drawing of the arm, Sister Miranda wrote, "Fold our arms."

As Sister Miranda drew more pictures, the children taught Arlo the rules for good Primary manners. Nathan was glad that he knew most of them already.

Now Arlo wasn't wiggling or waving his arms or calling out. His legs were still, and his arms were folded. The children were listening quietly too. Primary didn't seem noisy and confusing anymore. Nathan felt calm and happy. It wouldn't be too hard to be reverent in Primary. He already knew how.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER TOLMAN


Fold our arms.
Walk quietly.
Raise our hands for a turn to talk.
Use a quiet voice.
Listen to our teacher.

This Is God's House

"When we meet to learn the doctrines of the gospel, it should be in a spirit of reverence."[4]

President Boyd K. Packer, President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



What are some ways you can show respect for Heavenly Father's house?

1. Walk quietly in the halls. Run only in the gym during special activities not held on Sunday.
2. Speak quietly.
3. Take good care of the hymnbooks. Put them away neatly after using them.
4. Throw away any trash you see.
5. Be careful not to put your feet on benches or chairs.
6. When asked, help put away chairs after meetings.

The children of the Kahului Ward in the Kahului Hawaii Stake worked hard to help take care of Heavenly Father's house. For a service activity, they cleaned the chairs they use every week in Primary.

The children in senior Primary scrubbed the chairs with water and baking soda, while the junior Primary children dried the chairs. They also cleaned some tables from their ward building. Even the youngest children worked with enthusiasm and happy faces. Afterward, everyone felt good about keeping Heavenly Father's house clean.











PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE KAHULUI HAWAII STAKE



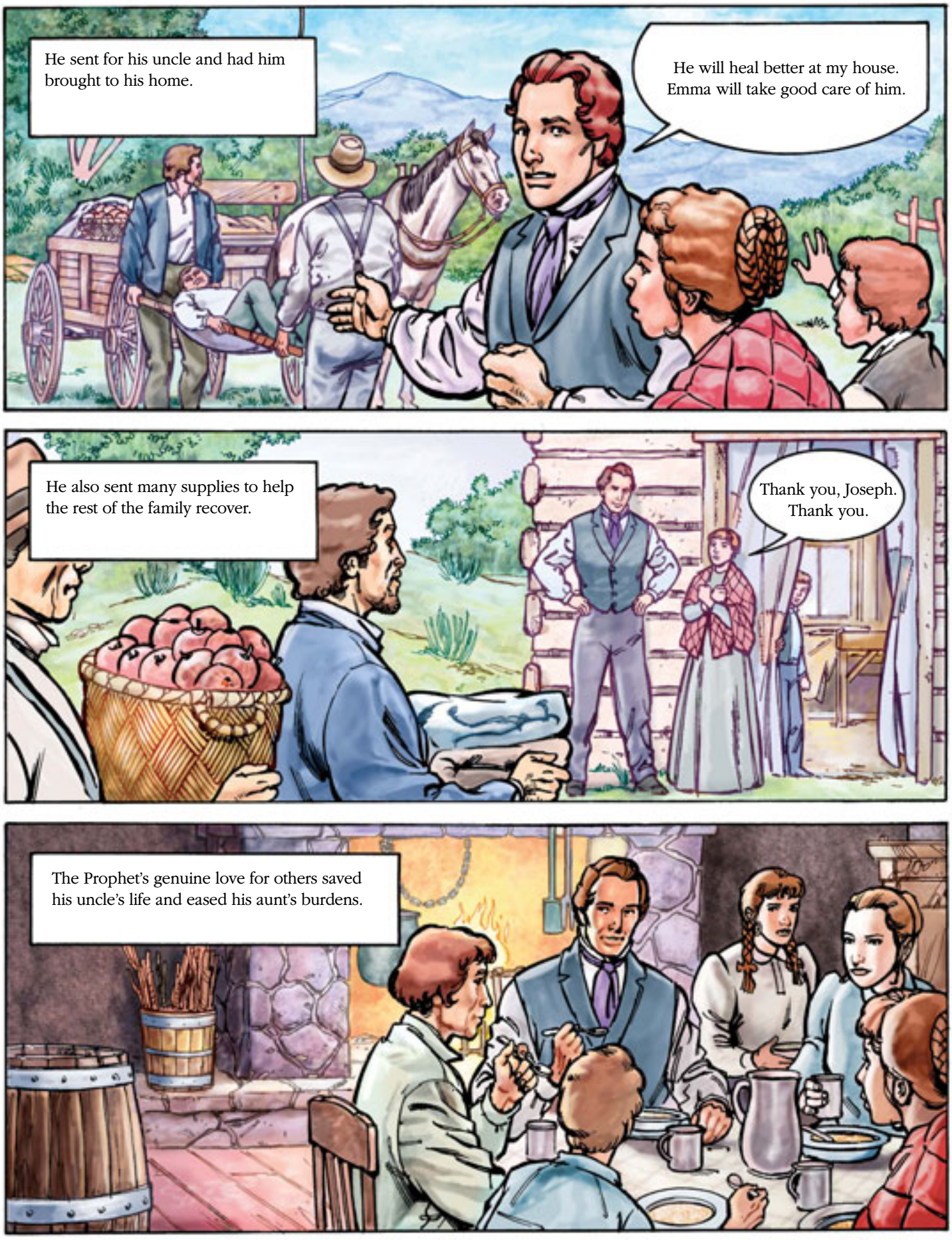
MY FAMILY IS BLESSED WHEN WE REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST.

"I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

ILLUSTRATION BY APRYL STOTT



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAL VELLUTO AND EUGENIO MATTOZZI



Adapted from Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith *(2007), 430.*



Trying to Be Like Jesus

He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life (John 8:12).

I'll Have Juice



I went to a party where they served tea and juice. My mom, my sister, and I were the only people in the group who asked for juice instead of tea. My friends asked me why, and I told them. I felt happy for the rest of the day because I didn't drink any tea.

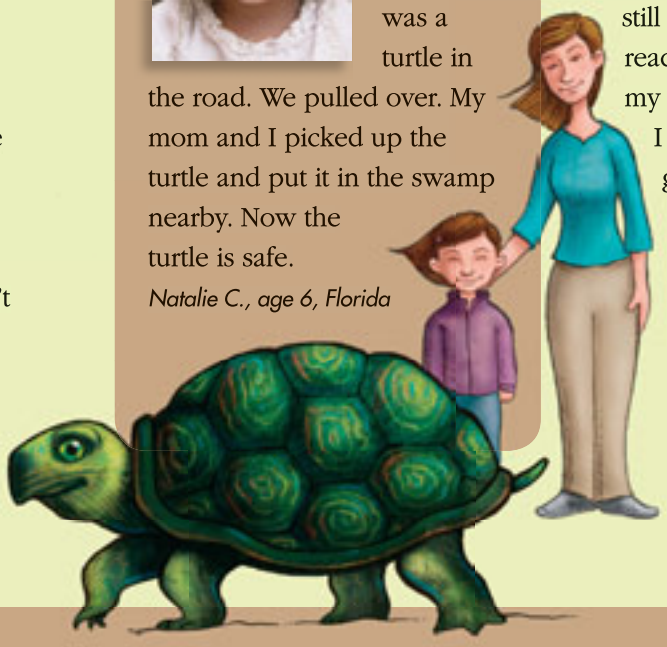
Kiramie T., age 10, Washington

Turtle Rescue



One afternoon when we were going home, there was a turtle in the road. We pulled over. My mom and I picked up the turtle and put it in the swamp nearby. Now the turtle is safe.

Natalie C., age 6, Florida



Helping Out



One Sunday when I was ready for church, I noticed that my mom was still getting ready and my brothers were not ready yet. I decided to help my mom get my brothers ready. When my mom thanked me, I felt really good inside.

Claire Elise M., age 9, Ohio

Secret Givers

One evening my mom read "The Secret Giver" from the December 2008 *Friend* to us. We liked the story a lot and thought it was a great idea. So, we made a plan with our mom and decided who we would give gifts to for Christmas and when we would do it. We even did some detective work to discover what some of our recipients would like. We dressed in dark clothes and planned to drop the presents and run. We thought that we were just having fun, but we got more than fun out of this service mission. We felt really good inside after delivering the presents, and we were excited about doing something nice for others. We are already thinking about next year's "secret giver" mission.



Tyler and Kirsten R., ages 8 and 9, Utah



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SAM RICKS

Christmas Peaches



A few years ago, we decided to bottle peaches for our grandpa for Christmas. We knew that he liked simple gifts and loved peaches. Mom helped us boil the peaches, peel them, and put them in jars. It was so much fun to bottle the peaches and learn something new. On Christmas, we went to our grandpa's house and were excited to carry in the big box of peaches. He was so happy when he unwrapped the box and saw all of the peaches inside. He told us how proud he was of us for learning how to bottle peaches. Now we give him Christmas peaches every year.

Matthew, Stephen, and Johnathan W., ages 9, 7, and 9, Utah

Warm Blankets, Warm Hearts



Every Christmas, my mom and I make fleece blankets for children at a homeless shelter near us. I like to tie the blankets with my mom. When we're done, we wrap teddy bears with the blankets. Then I help my dad carry the blankets into the shelter, and we wish them a merry Christmas. It makes me feel good to spread Christmas cheer and give to people.

LeAnn W., age 5, Utah, with help from her mom

Tell us how you're trying to be like Jesus. Turn to page 49 to find out how to send us a letter.

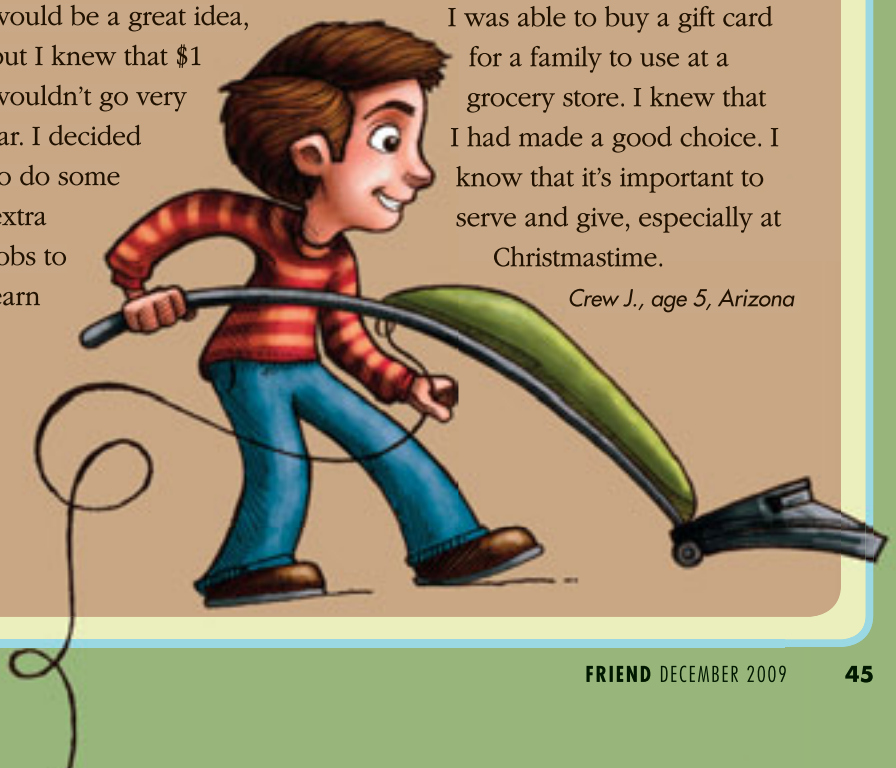
Serving for Christmas

My grandparents gave each of their grandchildren $1 and asked us to find a way to serve someone else with it for Christmas. My mom told us that a member of our ward collected gift cards to give to needy families for Christmas. I thought that would be a great idea, but I knew that $1 wouldn't go very far. I decided to do some extra jobs to earn money for a gift card. I cleaned windows, dusted, emptied garbage, fed dogs, pulled weeds, and vacuumed for some ward members and neighbors.



I was able to buy a gift card for a family to use at a grocery store. I knew that I had made a good choice. I know that it's important to serve and give, especially at Christmastime.

Crew J., age 5, Arizona





Tire Tracks and Twinkle Lights

BY C. WILLIS RITTER
(Based on a true story)

He hears and answers me when I pray in faith (*Children's Songbook,* 14).

Christy peeked excitedly through the curtains. Snow glistened in the moonlight.

"Ready to go look at the Christmas lights?" Mommy asked. "You need to put on your hat, coat, and mittens."

Christy skipped to the closet and pulled her coat off a hanger. She found her hat and mittens. Soon she was wrapped up like a caterpillar in a cocoon.

Outside, Christy made footprints in the snow. Her breath came out like steam. Mommy helped her into her car seat.

Their van crunched through the snow, making new tire tracks. Christy looked at her house. It looked like a twinkling gingerbread house! She giggled. The whole neighborhood looked magical.

"Look at that one!" Christy squealed, pointing to a house covered in pink lights. "Oh!" she said, pointing to a giant Christmas star sparkling with tiny white lights.

Mommy drove farther and farther. Christy grew sleepy watching the colorful lights. Soon it was time to go home. Mommy drove onto a small road to turn around. The road was piled with snow.

Mommy tried to back up. The tires spun around.

WHIRR, WHIRR!

Snow flew up, but the van didn't move.

Mommy tried to go forward. The tires spun around again.

WHIRR, WHIRR!

More snow flew up, but the van still didn't move. Mommy tried to go back again and forward again. The van didn't budge. They were stuck. Mommy got out of the van and looked down the road.

Christy couldn't see any cars. She began to feel nervous. What if they had to stay



here until morning?

Then she remembered something. Heavenly Father always knows where we are. She felt better.

Mommy got back in the van. She looked worried.

"Mommy, it's OK," Christy said. "Heavenly Father knows where we are. We can pray and ask Him to help us get unstuck."

"That's a good idea," Mommy said.

Christy folded her arms and bowed her head. "Heavenly Father," she said, "would you please send someone to help us get home?"

Christy felt warm inside. She knew Heavenly Father had heard her. "Thank you, Heavenly Father," she thought.

"It's all right, Mommy. We'll be OK now."

Mommy smiled and nodded her head. She still looked worried.

Bright lights lit up the back of the van. A man climbed out of a big truck. He waved as he waded through the snow. "You look like you could use some help," he said. "I'll have you out in a jiffy!"

The man hooked a big chain to the back of the van. His truck pulled the van right out of the snow. Mommy could drive again. She thanked the man and started for home.

"Christy, you taught me a lesson tonight," Mommy said. "Heavenly Father always cares about us. I love you."

Christy felt thankful and happy. "I love you too, Mommy." ●

"God never leaves us alone, never leaves us unaided in the challenges that we face."[5]

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



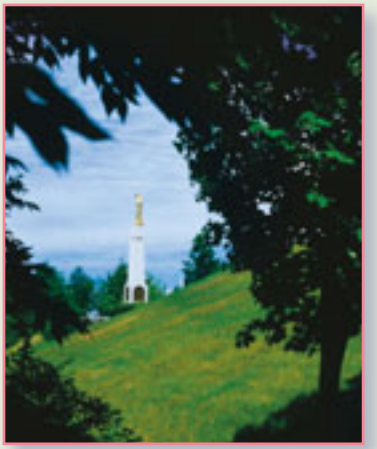
ILLUSTRATION BY JIM MADSEN

funstuf

Church History Tour

BY AMIE JANE LEAVITT

Important events in Church history happened in many different places. Can you match the picture of each place with its description? Look up the scriptures under the pictures for help.



1. Hill Cumorah
Joseph Smith—History 1:59



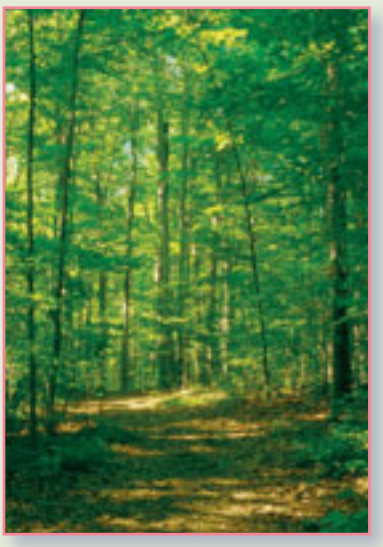
2. Carthage Jail
D&C 135:1



3. Grandin Press and Print Shop
D&C 19:26



4. Susquehanna River
Joseph Smith—History 1:68–73



5. The Sacred Grove
Joseph Smith—History 1:14–17



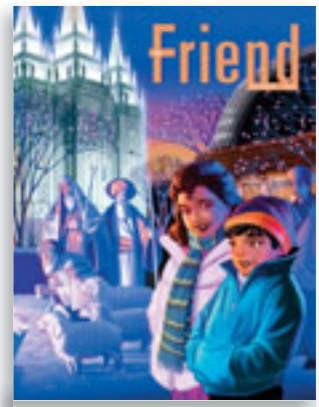
6. Peter Whitmer Senior Log House
D&C 21:3



7. Kirtland Temple
D&C 110:2, 11–13

A. Where the Prophet Joseph Smith was killed on June 27, 1844.
B. Where the Church was organized on April 6, 1830.
C. Where Jesus Christ, Moses, Elias, and Elijah appeared and restored priesthood keys on April 3, 1836.
D. Where Joseph Smith received the First Vision in 1820.
E. Where Joseph Smith received the golden plates on September 22, 1827.
F. Where the Aaronic Priesthood was restored on May 15, 1829.
G. Where the first copies of the Book of Mormon were published on March 26, 1830.

ANSWERS 1) E, 2) A, 3) G, 4) F, 5) D, 6) B, 7) C



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(f) = Funstuf
(IFC) = inside front cover
(m) = music
(v) = verse

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Sidebar References

1. "Becoming Our Best Selves," *Ensign*, Apr. 2006, 5.
2. "What Is Christmas?" *Friend*, Dec. 2003, 34.
3. "Don't Drop the Ball," *Friend*, Mar. 1997, inside front cover.
4. "Reverence Invites Revelation," *Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 21.
5. "The Ministry of Angels," *Ensign*, Nov. 2008, 31.

Family Home Evening Ideas

1. Read "A Gift for Jesus" (pages 18–19). Have every family member cut out a paper angel. Just as Anna did, write down something that you can give Jesus. Hang it on the tree to remember what you said you would give, and try your best to do that thing every day.

2. In advance, set out all the ingredients for chocolate-chip cookies. Reduce the chocolate chips by a noticeable amount. Explain that the ingredients that are set out are all you have to use. While the cookies bake, read "The Missing Egg" (pages 28–29). When the cookies are finished baking, allow everyone to eat one. Even though the full amount of the chocolate chips wasn't used, the cookies still taste good. Discuss how when we give everything we have to give and do our very best, it is good enough.

3. Read "The Reason for the Wonder" (pages 2–3). Play follow-the-leader, first with the lights off and then with the lights on. Is it easier to follow the leader when the lights are on or off? Christ is called "the light of the world" (John 8:12) because He has set an example that we can follow. What things can you do to better follow Jesus Christ?

4. Read "The Pink Dresser" (pages 36–37) and sing "'Give,' Said the Little Stream" (*Children's Songbook*, 236). Heavenly Father has blessed us with many wonderful things. Why is it important to share what we have with others?

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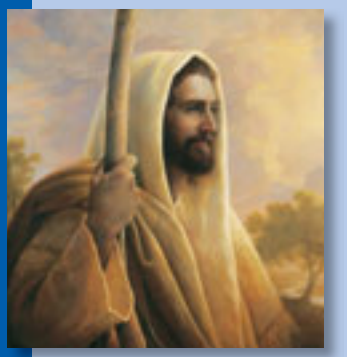
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What's online this month?  **friend.lds.org**

For Children



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CHRISTMAS STORY Watch the story of Jesus Christ's birth by clicking on "Scripture Stories."



For Parents

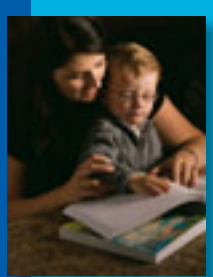


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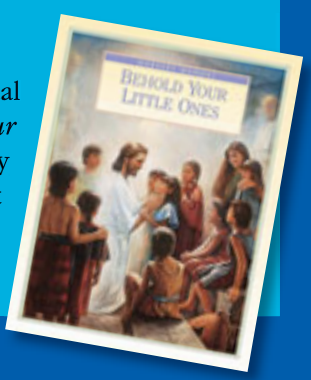


For Teachers and Leaders



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